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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 09/835,822 | 04/17/2001 | Hideo Ando | P 280186 T4YK-01S0040 | 5555 |
| 909 | 7590 | 08/18/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP | | | SHERR, CRISTINA O | |
| P.O. BOX 10500 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| MCLEAN, VA 22102 | | | 3621 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/835,822 | ANDO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Cristina Owen Sherr | 3621 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-16, 18 and 23-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 17 and 19-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the applicant's amendment filed May 19, 2005. Claims 1-16, 18 and 23-26 have been canceled. Claims 17 and 19-22 have been amended. Claims 17 and 19-22 are pending in this case.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17 and 19-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 17 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al (US 5,659,350).

5. Regarding claim 17 –

Hendricks discloses an information reproducing apparatus used in a transmitting/receiving system comprising a transmitting side and a receiving side, said transmitting side including: means for transmitting content information along with corresponding transmission time information; and means for transmitting transmission time information continuously after transmission of the content information to-be has been completed, said receiving side including:

means for reproducing received content information the transmission time information; means for temporarily storing the received content information as stored content information and the received transmission time information as stored transmission time information when the reproduction is interrupted; means for obtaining a time difference between the stored transmission time information and the received transmission time information when the reproduction interruption released has been terminated; means for allowing a reproduction of the stored content information if the time difference is less than or equal to a predetermined value, and means for executing charging of pay information with based on the a value of the time difference (e.g. col 30 ln 55-65).

6. Hendricks does not specifically disclose means for presenting an audible and/or visual warning in if the time difference is eve greater than the predetermined value, however, it is well known that somehow the user must be notified that time is finished. Examples of such notification include the sign at the end of a movie stating “the end”. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to somehow notify the user that his/her time is up.

7. Regarding claims 19-20 –

Hendricks discloses an apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the received content information and the received transmission time information are stored in the storing means in an encrypted state; wherein the received content information is information including encrypted television signals (e.g. col 3 ln 5-40).

8. Regarding claim 21 –

Hendricks discloses an information reproducing method used in a transmitting/receiving system including a transmitting side and a receiving side, comprising: in the transmitting side, transmitting content information to be transmitted along with corresponding transmission time information; and transmitting transmission time information continuously after transmission of the, transmitting content information has been completed in the receiving side; reproducing received content information received transmission time information; temporarily storing the received content information as the stored content information and the transmission time information as the stored transmission time information when the reproduction is interrupted; obtaining a time difference between the stored transmission time information and the received transmission time information when the reproduction interruption of the reproduction is release has been terminated; reproducing the stored content information if the time difference is less or equal to than a predetermined value, and executing charging of pay information based on the value of the time difference (e.g. col 30 ln 55-65).

9. Hendricks does not specifically disclose means for presenting an audible and/or visual warning in if the time difference is eve greater than the predetermined value, however, it is well known that somehow the user must be notified that time is finished. Examples of such notification include the sign at the end of a movie stating "the end". It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to somehow notify the user that his/her time is up.

10. Regarding claim 22 –

Hendricks discloses an information reproducing apparatus for a transmitting/receiving system having a transmitting side and a receiving side, comprising: on the transmitting side, a transmitting portion configured to transmit content information along with corresponding transmission time information which the transmitting portion continues to transmit the transmission time information the transmission of the content information has been completed, on the receiving side, a reproducing portion configured to receive and reproduce the content information and the transmission time information a storing portion configured to temporarily store the content information as stored content information and the transmission time information as stored transmission time information when reproduction is interrupted; a time-difference-obtaining portion configured to obtain a time difference between the stored transmission time information and current transmission time information received after the interruption is terminated; and a conditional-reproduction portion configured to reproduce the stored content information if the time difference is less than or equal to a predetermined value; a charging portion configured to execute charging of pay information based on a value of the time difference (e.g. col 30 ln 55-65).

11. Hendricks does not specifically disclose means for presenting an audible and/or visual warning in if the time difference is eve greater than the predetermined value, however, it is well known that somehow the user must be notified that time is finished. Examples of such notification include the sign at the end of a movie stating "the end". It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to somehow notify the user that his/her time is up.

12. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

14. Hendricks et al (US 6,539,548) discloses an operations center for a television program packaging and delivery system.

15. Allen (US 5,909,638) discloses a high-speed video distribution and manufacturing system.

16. Edwards et al (US 5,311,325) disclose a method and apparatus for providing periodic subscription television services.

17. Wolf et al (US 5,931,901) disclose programmed music on demand from the Internet.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr whose telephone number is 571-

272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shella Lane S
PRIMARY EXAMINER